

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 04089 221215Z

40

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 FRB-02 TRSE-00

AGR-20 XMB-07 INT-08 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 DRC-01 CIEP-02 OMB-01 /138 W

----- 123376

R 220948Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9109

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 4089

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EIND, ETRD, LA

SUBJECT: WEEKLY ECONOMIC SITUATION REPORT, MAY 15-21, 1974

1. THE USAID COST-OF-LIVING INDEX MOVED UP 1.1 PERCENT DURING THE WEEK REFLECTING SEASONAL INCREASES IN SOME GARDEN PRODUCE. FOREIGN EXCHANGE SALES WERE HEAVY (\$1.2 MILLION) AND INCLUDED \$188,000 FOR POL AND \$191,000 FOR ELECTRICITE DU LAOS DEBT SERVICE.

2. IN A NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW DR. SOMPHOU OUDOMVILAY, DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATIONAL ECONOMY, SAID THAT SOTH PHETRASY INTENDS TO FILL VACANCIES IN THE MINISTRY WITH LPF PERSONNEL, BUT THAT INCUMBENTS WILL NOT BE REMOVED. SOTH IS CURRENTLY SEEKING A REPLACEMENT FOR THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE WHO HAS BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL. FURTHER, SOMPHOU INDICATED THE NEXT 5 YEAR PLAN (PLAN CADRE) 1975-1980 IS AWAITING INPUTS DEALING WITH DEVELOPMENT IN THE LPF ZONE PRIOR TO BEING SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE HAS AUTHORITY TO REGULATE PRICES OF IMPORTED ITEMS, TO GIVE EXPORT PERMITS AND TO ASSIGN OFFICIAL VALUATIONS TO EXPORTS. A DIRECTOR FOLLOWING LPF POLICY OF GAINING GREATEST NATIONAL BENEFIT FROM

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LAO NATURAL RESOURCES COULD IMPACT UPON CURRENT METHOD OF

EXPORTATION OF TIN AND LUMBER.

3. JAPANESE AGRICULTURE MACHINERY PROVIDED UNDER QUOTE KENNEDY
ROUND UNQUOTE AGREEMENT VALUED AT \$500,000 WAS TURNED OVER TO
RLG AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE VIENTIANE PLAIN IN A CEREMONY
AT BAN THA NGONE ATTENDED BY JAPANESE AMBASSADOR AND SOTH
PHETRASY. NEWSPAPERS COMMENTED IT WAS FIRST TIME LPF OFFICIAL
VENTURED PAST THE 15 KM NEUTRAL AREA BOUNDARY.

4. DECONTROL FOLLOWING 5/22/75.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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